Met Office

Spring 2017

The following represents an assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during Spring 2017 (March to May) and how it compares with the 1981 to 2010 average.

This was a warm and rather dry spring. It was generally warmer than average during March and early April, but the second half of April was cooler, with some cold nights and numerous late frosts. May was predominantly warm, especially early and late in the month. April was much drier than average for most areas, but parts of north-west Scotland were wet. May was somewhat wetter than average in some south-eastern parts, but quite dry in much of the north and west. Sunshine was above average for Spring in most areas, though not in the far south-west.

March 2017 was warmer than average in all areas, by well over 2 °C over parts of East Anglia and south-east England, and the UK monthly mean temperature was +1.8 °C above the long-term average. This was the joint fifth warmest March in a series since 1910. April continued warmer than average for the first half, but cooler weather later in the month meant that the overall mean temperature for the month was just +0.6 °C above average. May was another warm month, with only short cooler spells, with an overall mean temperature +1.8 °C above average, the second warmest May in the series . This spring overall was the UK's equal-warmest in the series (with 2011).

March was somewhat wetter than average over Wales, much of northern England and south-east Scotland, but slightly drier for north-west Scotland and also drier than average in south-east England. Overall the UK had 103% of average rainfall. April was drier than average in most areas, with less than a third of the average rainfall in many places, and some stations near both London and Edinburgh received only around 5 mm in the whole month. The UK overall had 46% of average rainfall in April. In May the overall figure was 82%, but southern and eastern parts of England did have a rather wet month.

Most areas were sunnier than average during each of the three spring months. The exceptions were south-west England and south Wales in March, Northern Ireland and western and northern Scotland in April, and much of southern England in May. Sunshine totals for the UK overall were 118% of average in March, 107% of average in April, and 112% in May.

UK statistical summary

Mean Temperature

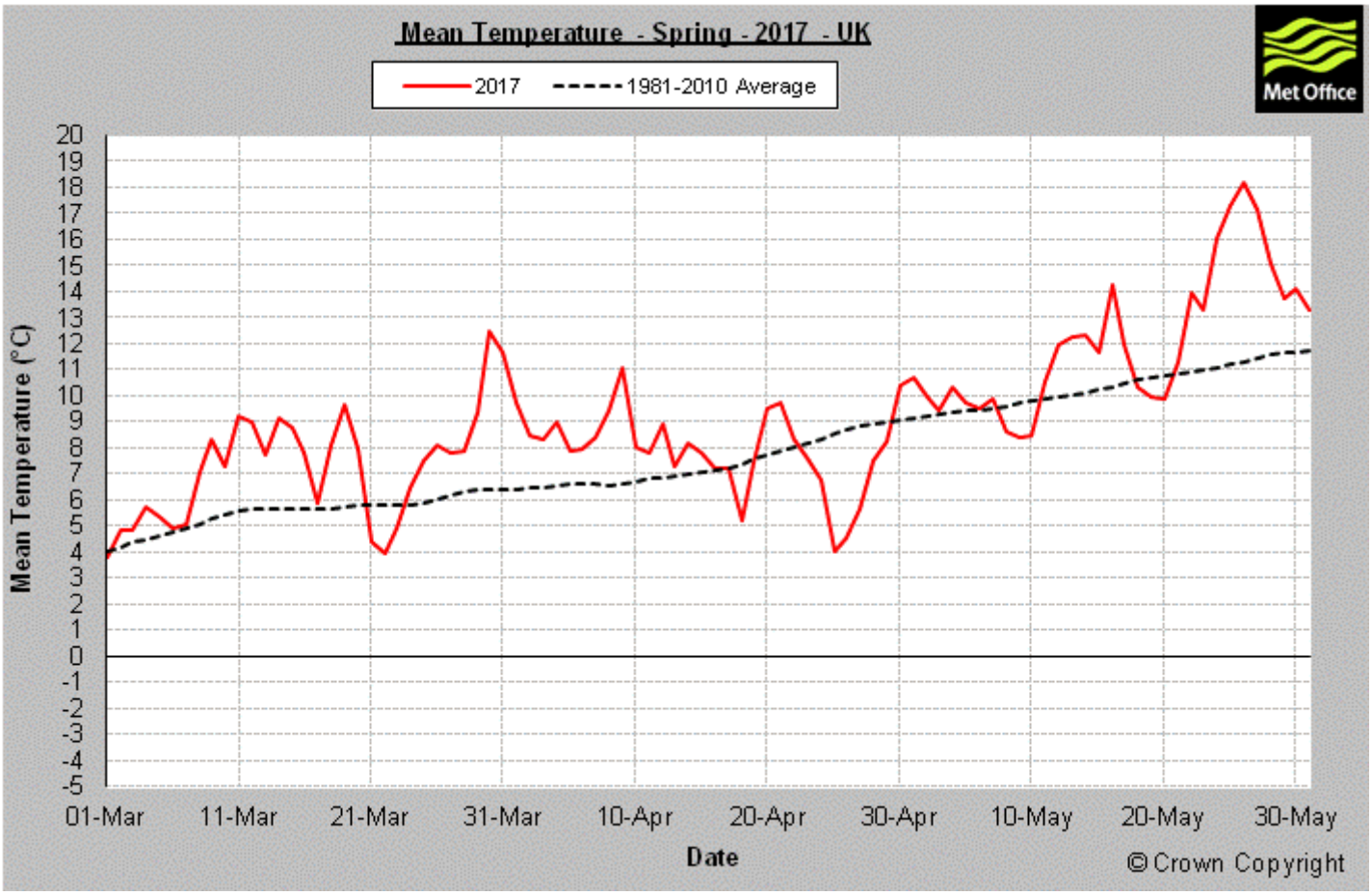
The mean value is 9.1 °C, which is 1.4 °C above the 1981-2010 average.

Rainfall

The total is 189 mm, which is 79% of the 1981-2010 average.

Sunshine

The total is 486 hours, which is 112% of the 1981-2010 average.


Mean Temperature - Spring - 2017 - UK
2017
1981-2010 Average
Met Office
Mean Temperature (°C)
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
-1
-2
-3
-4
-5
01-Mar
11-Mar
21-Mar
31-Mar
10-Apr
20-Apr
30-Apr
10-May
20-May
30-May
Date
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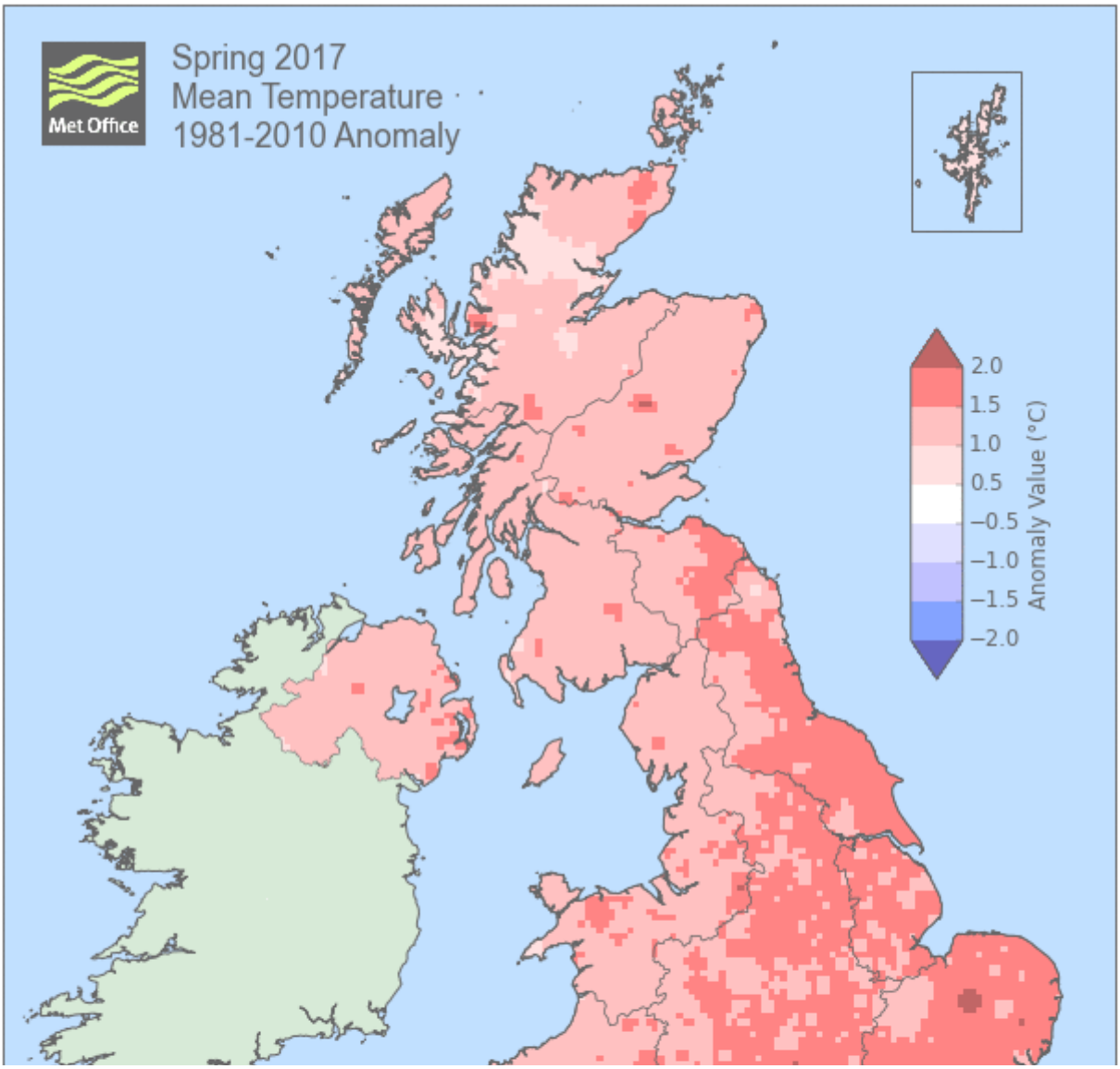
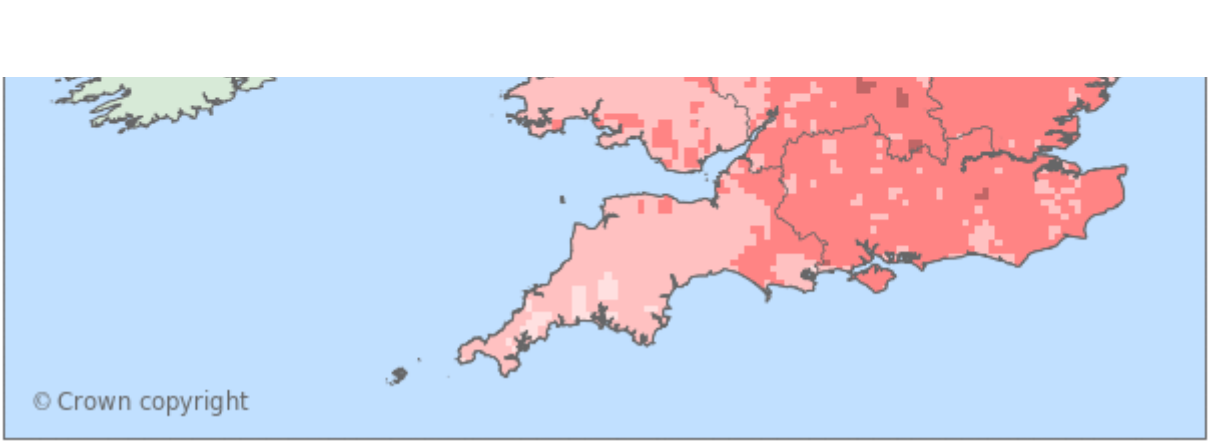

Met Office
Spring 2017
Mean Temperature
1981-2010 Anomaly
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
−0.5
−1.0
−1.5
−2.0
Anomaly Value (°C)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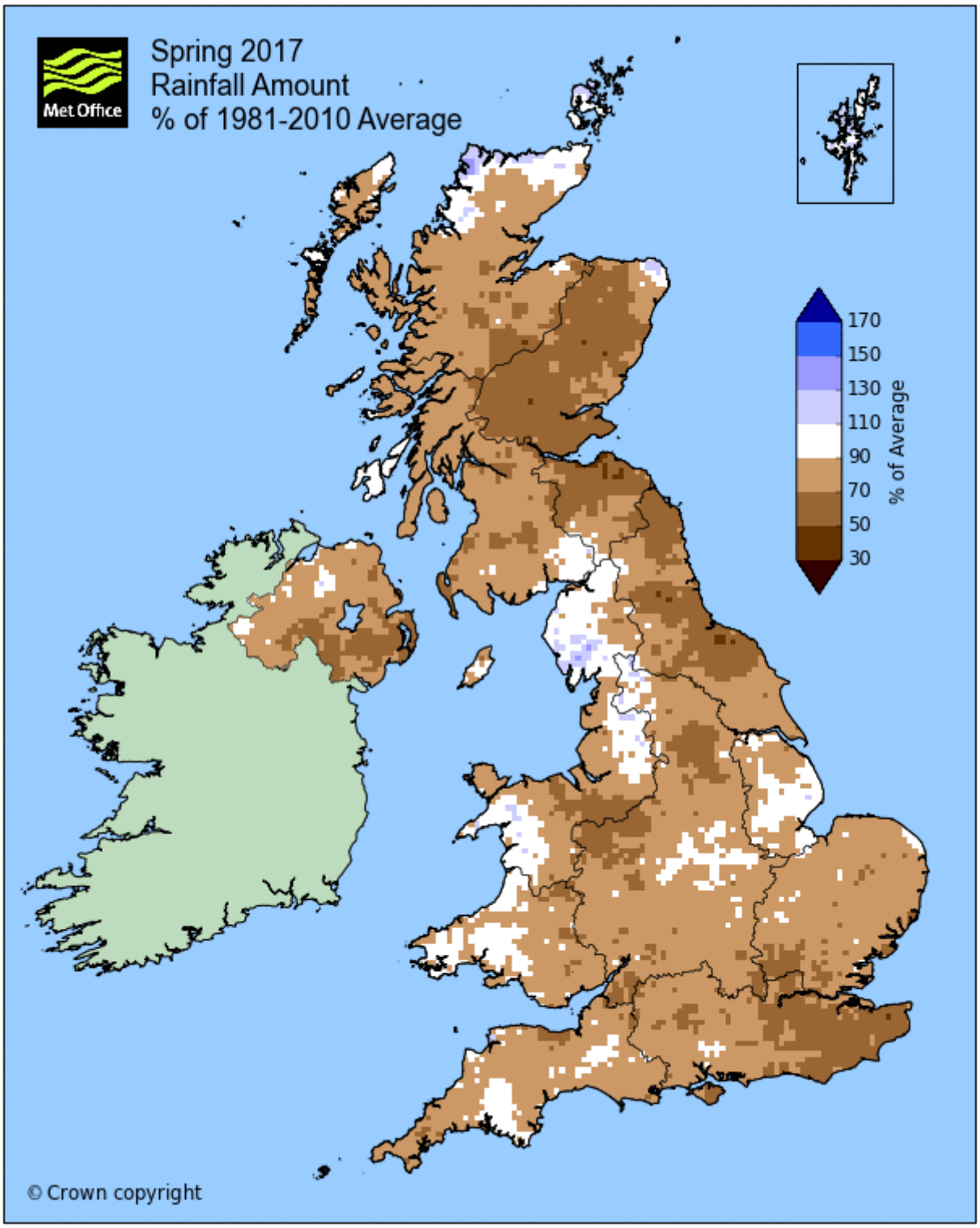
Met Office
Spring 2017
Rainfall Amount
% of 1981-2010 Average
170
150
130
110
90
70
50
30
% of Average
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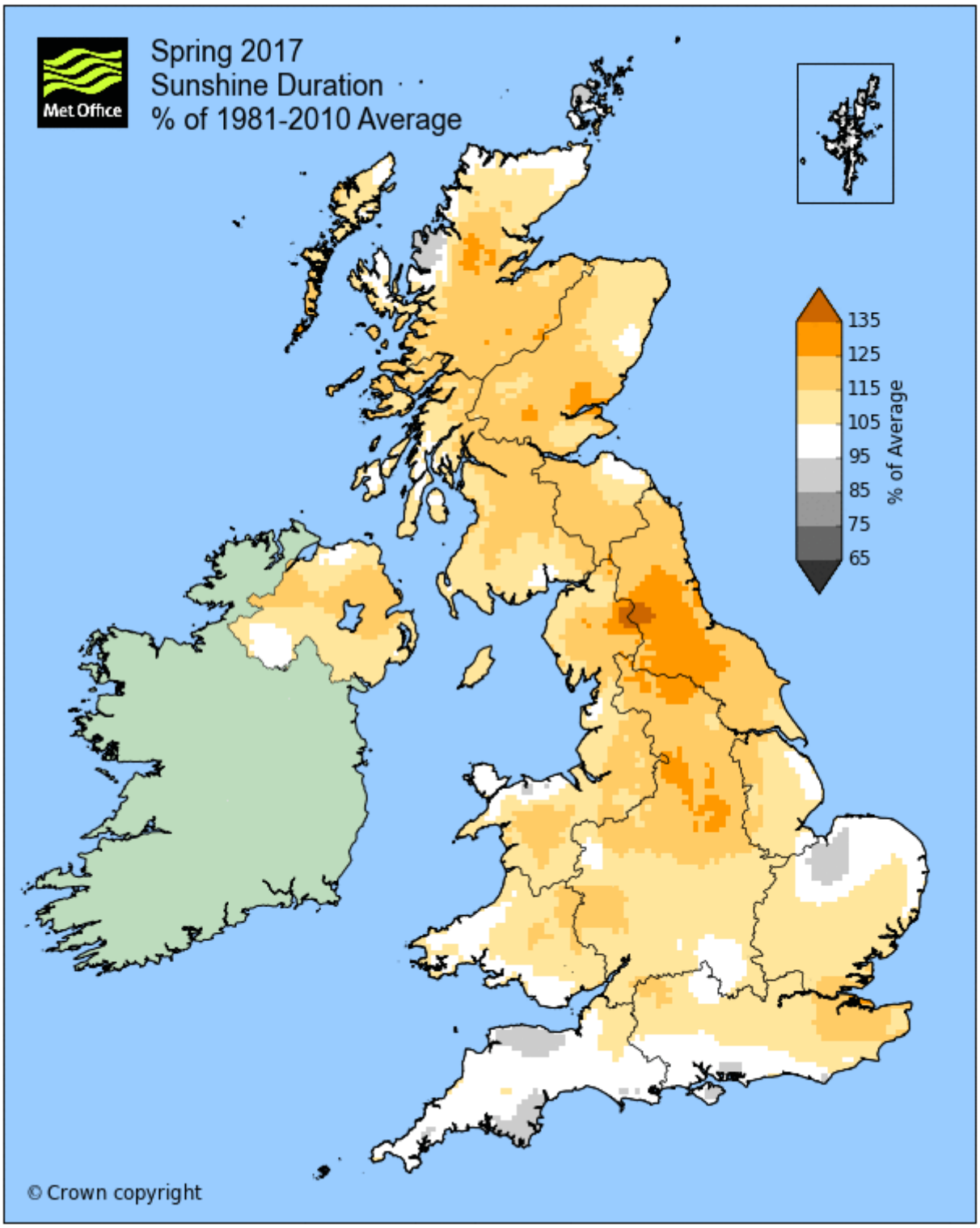

Last updated: 2 June 2017

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